



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Summer Events and More



Presenters Robert Patton, Kathryn Harris, and William Davis will be featured this summer at White Haven. Make your reservation soon!

Summer visitation is always high with school out and vacationers on the move. Ulysses S. Grant NHS has several programs scheduled for the summer, for those passing through on vacation or our long-time neighbors and local visitors.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. James Schiele has agreed to extend the exhibit of 19th century American prints from his collection and loaned by Washington University. Over thirty prints are displayed in the visitor center classroom, each one telling a story about its subject and the history of prints in America. The exhibit, originally scheduled to end July 9, will now continue through July 21.

July 26, 6:00 p.m.—Grant Death Remembrance Ceremony. Robert Patton, author of Hell Before Breakfast, will give a lecture and book signing as part of the event.

August 9, 10:00 a.m.—Kathryn Harris returns for her portrayal of Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor.

September 5-6, 7:00 p.m.—Evening at White Haven.

October 11, 10:00 a.m.—Annual John Y. Simon Day and Grant Lecture. This year's speaker is William Davis. \$10 registration fee is required.

All programs are free unless otherwise noted. Reservations can be made by calling 314/842-1867.

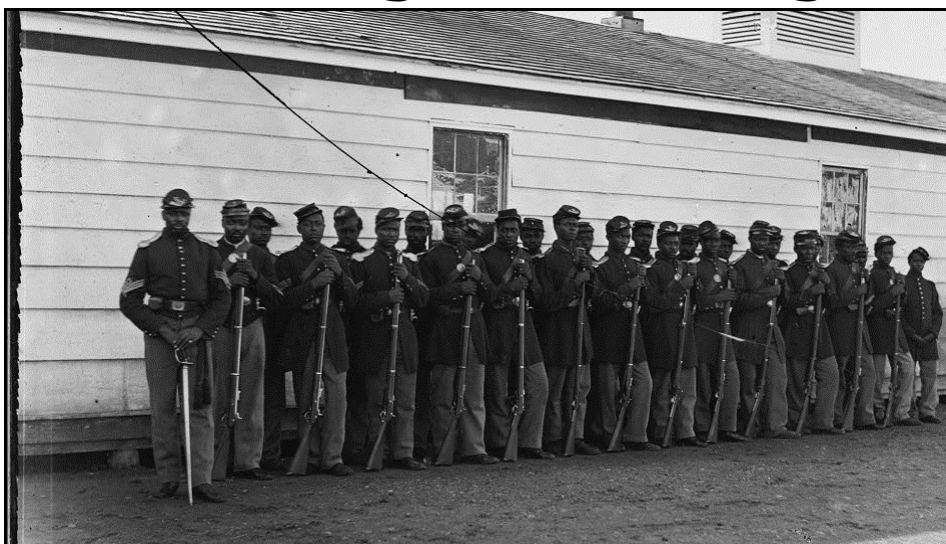
African Americans at the Siege of Petersburg

Today it seems a simple decision to let someone fight for their country. Yet during the Civil War, it took a great deal of time and effort before black men were allowed to join the Union fight against the Confederacy.

Scorned by many of the white Union troops, African American soldiers also received lower rates of pay. Once in battle, they faced additional risks that their white counterparts did not: being put to death or returned to slavery if they were captured by the Confederates.

Unlike other Federal officers, General Ulysses S. Grant had no misgivings about employing black troops, believing they were just as capable as white soldiers. However, during the siege of Petersburg in July 1864 a last minute change of plans resulted in disaster for both white and African American troops.

In an attempt to break a hole in the Confederates' extensive defenses, a Pennsylvania regiment dug a shaft beneath the Confederate position. The



Members of the 4th U.S. Colored Troops display their pride and determination in this 1864 photograph. When Confederates refused to include African American soldiers in prisoner exchanges, General Grant stopped all prisoner exchanges. Despite harsh criticism from Northerners, Grant remained steadfast by ensuring equal treatment regardless of race. Photo courtesy Library of Congress.

plan was to set explosives off in the shaft, blowing a gap open in the enemy line which would then be exploited by a specially trained division of black soldiers. At the last minute, white soldiers replaced the African American troops.

The explosion created a massive crater in the Confederate line and white troops plunged into the crater instead of around its edges, where they were soon under

devastating Confederate fire. The African American soldiers who followed were unable to exploit the breach. The attack failed and the siege at Petersburg went on for many more months.

Over 180,000 African American soldiers fought in the Civil War to preserve the Union and to abolish slavery. Nearly one-third of them died, and twenty-five received the Medal of Honor for their bravery.

The Siege of Petersburg: The Longest Military Event of the Civil War

Nine and a half months, over 70,000 casualties, the suffering of civilians, thousands of U. S. Colored Troops fighting for the freedom of their race, and the decline of General Robert

E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia all describe the Siege of Petersburg. It was here General Ulysses S. Grant cut off all of Petersburg's supply lines that would result in the

fall of Richmond on April 3, 1865. Six days later, Lee surrendered. To learn more, take a virtual visit to Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia at www.nps.gov/pete.

Spotlight on the Park: Archeology Table

Over the years, numerous archeology digs completed at the site by Midwest Region Archeological Center staff have helped inform us about the lives and activities of its 19th century residents. Many of the artifacts found are on display at various locations throughout the site.



Soon children of all ages can learn about the past through a simulated archeology dig.

We have long wanted to allow for hands-on learning about these objects and their meaning, and our new archeology table gives us that opportunity.

RJ Hutson completed the table as part of his requirement for earning the prestigious Eagle Scout award. RJ designed and built the table, working with staff to ensure accessibility for children ages 5 and up, and adding locking wheels to make it mobile. When completed, an instruction book will make the activity self-guided for families. It will also be added to our Junior Ranger program. Look for it this summer, or join us October 18 for National Archeology Day in Missouri.

Meet the Staff and Summer Interns

The newest addition to the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site staff is Anthony “Tony” DeMarco, our new Facility Manager. Tony comes to us from Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Arch), where he served as an electrician.

We are also happy to announce that we have two summer interns who have joined the ranks to assist with

interpretation and education. Miranda Schneiderer comes to us from Lindenwood University where she is a history major; Robert Keough is completing a degree in Education at Southeast Missouri State University. Both have jumped right in by immersing themselves in site literature and observing tours, and will be greeting visitors and doing tours soon.

We are glad to have them here!

Kids' Corner: Happy Birthday National Park Service!

President Ulysses S. Grant signed legislation in 1872 making Yellowstone the first national park in the world. It would take several more decades, and many more parks, to establish the agency responsible for managing those parks, the National Park Service.

One hundred, ninety-eight years ago, on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill creating the NPS. Today, there are over 400 units in the National Park Service, including parks, historic sites, battlefields, seashores, rivers, monuments, and memorials.

The Arrowhead serves as a symbol of the NPS, featuring the natural and cultural resources preserved and protected by employees, volunteers, and partners and the many things you can do and learn about in our national parks.



Can you match the images on the Arrowhead above with what they represent? (Answers are below.)

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Trees | a. Scenery |
| 2. Bison | b. Recreation |
| 3. Water | c. Plants |
| 4. Mountains | d. History |
| 5. Arrowhead | e. Animals |

Answers: 1=c; 2=e; 3=b; 4=a; 5=d.



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Upcoming Events

- June 14-July 21: 19th century prints exhibit from the collection of James Schiele, 9-5 daily
- July 26: Grant Death Remembrance Ceremony led by the Grant Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans; followed by Robert Patton lecture and book signing, 6:00 p.m.
- August 9: Kathryn Harris portrays Harriet Tubman, 10:00 a.m.
- September 5 & 6: Annual Evening at White Haven, 7 p.m. each evening
- October 11: Annual John Y. Simon Day and Grant Lecture, 10:00 a.m. \$10 reservation fee

Did you know?

After a long summer of fighting in 1864, both sides held numerous prisoners of war. Confederate troops were more depleted than Union forces, leading General Robert E. Lee to propose a prisoner exchange.

On October 1, Lee wrote to Grant proposing such an exchange.

Grant replied the next day, addressing the limitations he faced and asking whether Lee intended to include African American soldiers the same as white soldiers.

Lee responded that it was the Confederate position that “negroes belonging to our Citizens are not Considered Subjects of ex-

change & were not included in my proposition.”

Grant’s letter of October 3 ended negotiations, stating, “the Government is bound to secure to all persons received into her Armies the rights due to soldiers. This being denied by you . . . induces me to decline making the exchanges you ask.”